

CHILDREN'S SERVICES TEAM MINUTES

March 3, 2003
Children's Network
385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 2nd Flr.
Environmental Conference Room 2-A
San Bernardino, CA

In Attendance:

- Claudia Spencer, Public Health – Chair (909) 387-6225
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- Mary Lou Lutz, SBCUSD (909) 880-6721
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- Jeff Wagner, DCS – ARD (909) 383-9779
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- Lori Carcich, Children's Fund (909) 387-4949
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- Don Larkin, First 5 San Bernardino (909) 386-7706
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- Vivian Young, MSW Intern – DCS (909) 386-1379
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- Cynthia Ruiz, MSW Intern – DCS (909) 386-1367
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- Paula Roby, DBH (909) 421-9434
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- Kent Paxton, Network Officer (909) 387-8966
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- Mary Alice Grosser, CAC (909) 478-0591
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- Bonnie Konowitch, Children's Network (909) 387-5393
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- Ed Rowe, Children's Network (909) 387-8938
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- Tammy Williams, Children's Network (909) 387-5365
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1. Welcome and Introductions

Kent welcomed all those in attendance and self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes as read.

3. Subcommittee Reports

A) Child Death Review

October, 2002 deaths – Review of 41 deaths – deaths due to prematurity, 11; fetal demise, 14; natural cause, 6; traffic 4; accident – aspiration of food; homicide, 2 children (19 mo.; 15 years); 3 pending cause of death. For traffic deaths, three of the three in auto accidents were not properly restrained (ages: 5 years, 17 years, 16 years); one child was a pedestrian, age 16 years.

November, 2002 deaths – Review of 44 deaths: deaths due to prematurity, 8; fetal demise, 15; natural cause, 11; traffic 4; accidents, 2; homicide (17 years old); three pending (1 mo., 3 mo., 5 years). For traffic, all were passengers, three of four not properly restrained, ages 8 years, 8 years and 5 years.

December, 2002 deaths – Review of 53 deaths – deaths due to prematurity, 9; fetal demise, 20; natural, 6; traffic, 3; homicide, 2; accident, 4; undetermined, -1; pending, 8 children, 28 days of age to 1 year range. Traffic deaths two children passengers, one restrained, one not; one 16 year old pedestrian. Guests at meeting from Riverside County Social Services, AMR Ambulance Quality Assurance Director.

Claudia mentioned that the Drowning Prevention Conference was very successful with many good presentations. By hosting this conference so early in the year, we hope to raise awareness and reduce drowning incidents before the peak months of June, July, and August. It was reported that 55% of drownings are in swimming pools in the age group of 1 to 4. Bathtub drowning is almost always caused by a lack of supervision, or inappropriate supervision. Older children (13 years and up) often drown in fresh water such as lakes due to overconfidence in their ability to swim. There was a wonderful speaker from Phoenix on their drowning prevention model. The goal is to repeat this conference on an annual basis.

B) Family Preservation Councils

Ed Rowe reported he is in the process of educating people countywide about the Family Preservation Councils as possible resources for their families. Ed and Kent will be speaking at the Cal-State Conference on May 15th on the fundamentals of Family Preservation Councils.

Kent reported the first Focus Group for the DBH (Department of Behavioral Health) Strategic Plan to better serve children was attended by Children's Network Policy Council members. Some of the discussion focused around HSS (Human Services System) integration at the case management level. As of this meeting, Kent developed a draft referral form with numerical weighing factors that will be presented to Children's Network Policy Council. Kent mentioned that PDU (Program Development Unit) are working on forms and instructions for the referral process. He also mentioned that 10 years ago an interagency release form was developed and approved by the Juvenile Court and the Board of Supervisors to discuss cases. Paula made a suggestion that there should be a CST (Children's Services Team) subcommittee formed to review the referral form and policies surrounding the DBH Strategic Plan for children.

C) School Based Services

Mary Lou Lutz reported on the following activities:

- **Mary Lou to share the web site with Tammy for this group on the anti bullying campaign from Peter Yarrel.**
- In the newspaper last week there was an article about students who receive free lunches. The paper reported there are 30 schools with 90% of the students getting free lunch. Mary Lou mentioned they are looking into the matter with spot audits, and that the parents report income information.
- The total enrollment for students in the San Bernardino district is climbing from 54,000 to 56,000.
- She is working on the homeless grant and the program of leaving no child behind.
- Work is moving forward for the Healthy Start Grants – not sure how much money will be available.
- Work is moving forward on a safety grant to fund more school police.
- They are involved with getting families on the Healthy Families and/or Medi-Cal to make sure they have medical coverage.

- The School Linked Services Committee has developed a list of services from the community; the only problem is due to budget cuts some of them may not be available. The committee will meet again in May after the May Revise Budget is discussed. AB 1913 provides 5 million dollars through the Juvenile Justice Commission for Probation Officers at the schools.

Kent reported another concern is the Child Care budget. There are meetings being held now on what plan of action will be needed if the State chooses to realign the childcare funds. It could be disastrous for the county if the state realigns the childcare funding because the Board of Supervisors would have to fund 40 million dollars up front in childcare contracts. Kent will keep this group informed.

Bonnie Konowitch reported on the following activities:

- There is some discussion about moving the Head Start program under State Preschool and the funding has been reduced from 35 million to 2 million.
- There appears to still be some funding available from the Federal Government for after school programs.
- There has been some discussion about filling gaps from the state by: hiring trained consultants; parenting, transportation, child care, kinship, and mentoring programs could be combined at Family Resource Centers.
- An example of collaboration is the Homeless Coalition discussed mentoring to encourage more positive school attendance.

D) Perinatal Coalition

Kent reported on the following activities:

- Dr. Smith came to Children's Network Policy Council last week to discuss the Best Practices model conference he attended in December in Sacramento. The topic was on drug abusing pregnant and parenting women.
- Dr. Smith will be speaking again at Children's Network Policy Council on this county adopting the Best Practices model.

E) Grant Writing

Bonnie Konowitch reported the next Grant Writing Subcommittee will be meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 5, 2003 at the Inland Regional Center, 674 Brier Dr., San Bernardino. The topic will be an overview of the White House Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

Basically, the Federal Government is leveling the playing field for the faith-based and community-based agencies applying for Federal money. The Federal Government gave the states 88% funds that are then distributed to the counties. For example HHS Human Health Services distributed \$150 billion in 2001 to the States. In 2003 Human Health Services will distribute to the states over 500 billion dollars. Bonnie volunteered to give a workshop on the White House Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to county agencies that might be interested. Last month Ed Rowe from Children's Network presented on the Family Preservation Councils and was able to make some good connections for other resources.

The Resource Center in Riverside offers many courses that would be of interest to local agencies. At the last workshop they had presenters from the California Endowment and the Wellness Foundation.

Bonnie mentioned she has data on children and families, contact her if you need any. There was some discussion about the instructions to install car seats is written at the 10th grade level which is generally too high and needs to be written at the 5th or 6th grade level. Some work is being done now to change the instructions so that more of the general public can understand the instructions and install the car seats properly.

F) Conference Standing

Kent reported Susan is at some training for Medi-Cal billing. Susan conducted a survey of agencies in Policy Council to see how many plan to send staff to the Children's Network annual conference. The agencies surveyed do not anticipate sending any less staff this year.

The conference planning is moving full steam ahead with some different partners such as; First 5, Children's Fund, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Child Development, and the Child Care & Planning Council. The conference will be held on September 18th at the Ontario Convention Center.

G) Safe and Stable Families

Jeff reported on the following activities:

- The Board of Supervisors approved some additional funding for the Kinship Center to be used to assist caregivers.
- Jeff shared a list of contractors for the CAPIT (Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention & Treatment) as well as the PSSF (Promoting Safe and Stable Families).
- Jeff mentioned that when agencies refer clients they might be placed on a waiting list, due to the number of referrals from the Department of Children's Services.
- This year the Department of Children's Services will be heavily looking at the contractor's performance.
- He mentioned that the State Budget would directly affect the CAPIT contracts for the next fiscal year.

H) Focus West/East Valley Collaborative/High Desert Partnership for Kids/Bear Valley Community Network

Kent reported all the collaborative are going well and a guest speaker has been scheduled for every month through June.

I) Cultural Competence

Kent reported through the DBH Strategic Plan Cultural Sensitivity is being addressed to further enhance Mental Health issues. The Department of Behavioral Health has had in place mandated skills for cultural competence issues.

J) Drowning Prevention Coalition

The conference went very well. Children's Network was a co-sponsor. Loma Linda University Medical Center donated the food and facility. It was reported there was very good press coverage of the conference as well.

4. Child Abuse Prevention Planning Committee

Kent asked the group to join him and Bonnie O'Connor at the Board Of Supervisors on March 18th for the Child Abuse Prevention Month Resolution. He also mentioned the Shine the Light on Child Abuse Awards Breakfast will be on March 26th at 7:30 a.m. at the Double Tree in Ontario. We expect around 500 people in attendance. Kent mentioned there are many nominations this year and he mentioned specifically Avon Hall, Deputy Director from the Department of Children's Services and Gail Seekins from the Department of Public Health will be honored. Kent reminded the group to partner with Children's Network to get out the Child Abuse Prevention materials.

5. Children's Fund Report

Lori Carcich reported on the following activities:

- They are in the middle of their biggest fund raising time.
- The Duck Race is April 26th at Guasti Park at 2:00 p.m.
- There will be a Festival from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Guasti Park in conjunction with the Duck Race.
- Vendors are welcome to contact them about a booth.
- Department of Children's Services and Department of Behavioral Health have their annual competition starting with whom can sale the most ducks.
- There will be a meeting soon for all the new sales teams to discuss the duck race.
- The kick off for the duck race will be with the Board of Supervisors in front of the County Government Center.
- Another upcoming fundraiser is a golf tournament at Red Hill Country Club on June 9th.
- They have an Administrative Assistant position that is open and they are currently taking applications.

6. First 5 San Bernardino Report

Don Larkin reported the following activities First 5 is currently involved with:

- In collaboration with Children's Network and Children's Fund he discussed the Safe Haven brochures and posters. It is good information for parents to know about their alternatives. A suggestion was made for Susan Melanson and Stacy Iverson to get together and discuss distribution. An idea given was to coordinate through Public Health to get the brochures placed in the women's restrooms at the local junior high and high schools, as well as the counselors' office.

- Don passed out 2 handouts on the First 5 Strategic Planning process. There are 6 regional teams working and community and technical assistance is involved. The teams are determining what each region has and what the needs are to strengthen the services for the 0 to 5 population. The whole process will take around 9 months, with a final product given to the Children and Families Commission to approve.
- They are gathering data for the 0 to 18 through a Redlands GIS mapping program. The technical advisory teams have come across 153 indicators highlighting the need for prenatal care and care of the 0 to 5 population.
- One area of particular focus is prenatal services in the community based on the Best Practices model.
- The strategic planning process is even more critical due to the State Budget. There is a proposed tax of \$1.10 for cigarettes, but there has been a 25% drop in revenue due to fewer smokers. They have been told that from the state they will get any losses backfilled, but that depends on the state budget.
- Don suggested a possibility of a contractor being evaluated and if good outcomes are found, they could issue a "good housekeeping" seal of approval.

7. Other

Mary Alice mentioned the reason she missed the February meeting was because she was at a conference in San Diego. She purchased videotape about the authentic voices movement and will bring it to the next meeting to share with this group. Mary Alice mentioned that there was an excellent keynote speaker from this Authentic Voices Group and suggested them as a possible resource for the Children's Network conference next year.

Children's Services Team
March 3, 2003

8. Next Meeting: April 7, 2003 – 10:30 a.m.
Children's Network
385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 2nd Flr.
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San Bernardino

Respectfully Submitted,

TAMMY WILLIAMS
Children's Services Team Recording Secretary

Betty Ansley, Public Health	Susan Melanson, Children's Network
Sandy Chang, Inland Regional Center	Bonnie O'Connor, Children's Fund
Bonnie Konowitch, Grant writing Chair	Laura Gonzales, Probation
Kent Paxton, Network Officer	Claudia Spencer, DPH, Chair
Marie Dawson, LLUMC	Mary Alice Grosser, CAC
Sherman Garnett, County Schools	Mary Lou Lutz, SBUSD
Jack Trotter, Sheriff's Ofc.	Flavia Jorge, ADP, SB Region
Jeff Wagner, DCS – ARD	Don Larkin, First 5
Edward Rowe, Children's Network	Paula Roby, DBH

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